a ring member disposed concentrically about a lens optical axis;

detection means for detecting a change amount of a rotation of said ring member;

control means for determining motion direction and a speed of [a] the magnification lens group in accordance with an output from said detection means, and for performing motion/stop control of the magnification lens group along the optical axis; and

change means for changing a response characteristic [characteristics] of the motion of the magnification lens group relative to a detection result of said detection means in accordance with a photographing state.

Claim 50, line 1, change "44" to -48-.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-38, 40-45, and 47-50 are pending in the application. The independent claims are Claims 1, 14, 17, 26, 29, 42, 44, and 48.

The drawings were objected to for the reasons noted page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection since, as presently advised, these figures are not believed to represent "Prior Part" within the meaning of 35 USC § 102.

Claim 50 has been amended to overcome the observation that it is duplicative of Claim 47.

The pending claims were rejected as being unpatentable over Kawanami, Sato, Takahashi, Shimizu, and Haraguchi, for the reasons detailed at pages to 2-13 of the Office Action. The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Christensen for the detailed discussion of the art as applied to the claims. Applicant respectfully traverses all art rejections.

Independent Claim 1 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps whereby the image pickup apparatus sets a speed characteristic of a lens group with a display menu including a plurality of items. Such a combination

including such a feature is nowhere disclosed are suggested by the cited art, including Kawanami and Shimizu. In particular, Kawanami discloses a camera which includes a switch for switching between a rotation direction of zoom ring and a driving direction of a zoom lens (see Figure 5). However, Kawanami fails to disclose or suggest to set a speed characteristic of a lens with a displayed menu.

Shimizu sets a photographing interval of an electronic still camera by using a personal computer. That is, Shimizu controls the camera with an external device. Thus, Shimizu fails to disclose or suggest that such control is activated by an operation of a manual operation member and operates on the characteristic of the lens. Accordingly, Shimizu fails to disclose or suggest camera apparatus which includes setting means for setting a motion characteristic of the lens with a display menu including a plurality of items.

Each of Independent Claims 14, 17, 26, and 29 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps in which the camera portion of an image pickup apparatus includes storing means for storing information as to the relationship between an operation of a ring member and a lens

operation characteristic, where this relationship is set at the lens side. According to this feature, even if the lens is changed, a new lens may be controlled in the same manner as that of the previous lens since the camera includes the above-described storing means and therefore can send the information stored in the storing means to the new lens.

Sato detects a rotation speed of a ring operation member and changes a focal distance of a zoom lens, and changes a driving speed of the zoom lens according to the detection result. However, Sato fails to disclose or suggest that the camera includes a storing means for storing the operational condition information set in the lens.

Independent Claim 42 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps whereby the image pickup apparatus includes inhibiting means for inhibiting a zoom lens during a predetermined period after a zoom ring member stops rotating. In contrast, Takahashi discloses that in a power zoom system of a camera, the driving speed may be changed according to a focal distance (position) of the zoom lens so that the focal distance changes at a constant ratio. Accordingly, Takahashi

fails to disclose or suggest the inhibiting structure recited in Claim 42.

Haraguchi nearly discloses that when a driving direction of a lens is inverted, a lens is stopped by canceling the backlash of the gear. See, for example, Column 23, line 63-Column 24, line 2. This structure is clearly distinguishable from the claimed invention in which, when the rotation of the zoom ring member is stopped, the zoom lens is kept moving during a predetermined period. Since the other art of record fails to cure the deficiencies of Haraguchi, Claim 42 is fully patentable over the cited art whether taken individually or in combination.

Independent Claim 44 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps for changing a reference value of a change amount of rotation of the ring member for permitting/inhibiting motion of the magnification lens group in order to control a start timing of motion of the magnification lens group when the ring member is rotated. A combination including such a feature is nowhere disclosed or suggest and Takahashi. Takahashi nearly discloses different driving speeds for zoom lenses, see Figure 6.

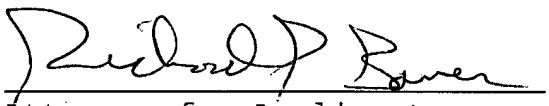
Independent Claim 48 recites a novel combination of structure and/or steps whereby the image pickup apparatus changes the driving characteristic of a zoom lens relative to the rotation amount of a zoom ring member according to a photographing program (see, for example, the embodiment of Figure 25). This feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested by the cited art, including Sato. Sato merely changes the driving speed of the zoom lens according to only the rotation amount of the zoom ring and the change of the focal distance of the zoom lens. None of the other cited art teaches to control the driving characteristic of the zoom lens according to the rotation amount of the zoom ring member, and according to the photographing program.

Accordingly, the salient claimed features of the present invention are nowhere disclosed are suggested by the cited art, whether that art is taken individually or in combination.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now and condition for allowance and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

The undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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